

passion was Civil Rights; he chaired the coalition that successfully created a constitutional amendment which abolished the poll tax and set up a system of permanent voter registration. In 1965, President Johnson appointed him to the White House Conference on Civil Rights. Like many reformers before him, Dr. Luck was driven by a cause that was met with adversity. He met each challenge and cause with fervor that mystifies and inspires us to public service.

In addition to Civil Rights, Dr. Luck was committed to improving Arkansas higher education. He served as Trustee of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia from 1970 until 1982. He was appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education by Governor Bill Clinton, serving from 1988 until 1994.

His service went far beyond civilian life; Dr. Luck served in the U.S. Navy V-12 program during World War II. He also served as a Naval Medical Officer during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.

Arkansas will be forever grateful that such a visionary leader came along, at the time he did, to lead us into a new era. I hope that you are as inspired as I have been by Dr. Luck's relentless determination to fight for such important causes. While Dr. Luck is no longer with us, his legacy lives on by the way he improved the quality of life for all Arkansans.

INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, now that Congress has passed landmark legislation that will help reform our intelligence community, I believe we must now take a closer look at streamlining congressional oversight of that community. Therefore, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a recent opinion piece, which explores some of the reform options available to us.

The op-ed, entitled "Joint Intelligence Committee Overdue" was published on Dec. 3, 2004, in the News-Leader—Florida's oldest weekly newspaper. It was authored by Mr. Thomas Smeeton, who is the former U.S. House Minority Staff Director of the Iran/Contra Committee and Minority Counsel of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee. Mr. Smeeton also served as a CIA officer. I hope my colleagues will find the op-ed interesting and beneficial:

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE OVERDUE

The collapse of Congressional efforts to reform the intelligence community dominated the news just before Thanksgiving. The proposed legislation embodied many of the major recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for fixing the executive branch's intelligence problems. Largely overlooked in this reform debate is Congress' failure, so far, to do enough to address its own problems. Yet the 9/11 panel noted that "of all of our recommendations, strengthening Congressional oversight may be the most difficult and important." The commission also pointed out that, "Congressional oversight for intel-

ligence and counterterrorism is now dysfunctional."

The main reason this critically important congressional responsibility is malfunctioning is because it is spread amongst too many committees. That is why the 9/11 Commission urged Congress to replace the current fragmented oversight arrangement with either a House-Senate joint committee or single panels in each congressional body with exclusive oversight and legislative power.

Consolidation along these lines would drastically reduce the time high level intelligence community officials spend on Capitol Hill repeating over and over again the same briefings and testimonies to the various committees now exercising jurisdiction over intelligence activities. Redundant congressional demands are becoming so time consuming that it is increasingly difficult for these senior officials to discharge their primary duties of attending to the many security issues confronting this nation.

The need to reform Congress' oversight of the intelligence community has been recognized by some members of Congress for years. Henry Hyde, currently chairman of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, proposed legislation to create a Joint Intelligence Committee in 1984. He spelled out what he had in mind in numerous forums, including op-ed pieces that appeared in major newspapers. Nearly 17 years ago, Hyde's idea was the top recommendation of the Republican members of the Iran/Contra Committee. Among those endorsing the Hyde initiative were Dick Cheney, Mike DeWine and Orrin Hatch, who served with Hyde on the Iran-Contra Joint Committee. All of these political figures remain major players in Washington.

The reluctance of Congress to get its own house in order is politically understandable. A Joint Intelligence Committee would require a number of committees and their powerful chairmen to sacrifice their jurisdictions over intelligence matters. But given what is at stake, it is time to subordinate such parochial concerns to the national interest.

To really be effective, a Joint Intelligence Committee must have both oversight and legislative authority. Otherwise, those committees with an interest in intelligence issues will try to recapture their lost purviews. Historically, those committees have been Armed Services, Judiciary, Appropriations and Foreign/International Relations. To mollify these traditional bailiwicks, membership on the joint committee should include representatives from each of these committees. The panel must be small to ensure secrecy and promote individual responsibility and accountability. To encourage bipartisanship, neither political party should have more than a one-vote edge. The committee staff should be composed of apolitical professionals.

In summary, the time has come to think outside of the box and adopt radical congressional reforms to meet national security challenges in the post 9/11 world. The 9/11 Commission put it best when it warned that "the other reforms we have suggested—for a national counter-terrorism center and national intelligence director—will not work if congressional oversight does not change too. Unity of effort in executive management can be lost if it is fractured by congressional oversight."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OMNIBUS NONPROLIFERATION AND ANTI- NUCLEAR TERRORISM ACT OF 2005"

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, early on the morning of October 11, 2001, as lower Manhattan still lay smoldering, President Bush was told by George Tenet, the Director of Central Intelligence, that a CIA agent was reporting that al Qaeda terrorists armed with a stolen Russian nuclear weapon were loose in New York City.

The threat was not made public for fear it would cause mass panic, but senior U.S. Government officials were evacuated, including Vice President CHENEY, to a series of undisclosed locations away from the capital. Nuclear Emergency Search Teams were dispatched to New York to look for the weapon, reportedly a 10 kiloton warhead that could have killed at least 100,000 people if it were detonated in Manhattan.

Thankfully, the CIA report turned out to be untrue, but the danger we face from nuclear terrorism is all too real. Osama bin Laden has termed the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction "a religious duty," while his press spokesman has announced that al Qaeda aspires to kill 4 million Americans, including 1 million children.

President Bush has deemed a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States the number one national security threat facing this country. In a valedictory interview with the Associated Press, Attorney General John Ashcroft also singled out the danger to America posed by terrorists armed with nuclear weapons.

We agree with the President and the Attorney General, and we share the conviction of almost every expert in and out of government who has looked at this problem: If we do not act now to secure existing nuclear material and weapons, as well as the expertise needed to build them, a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States is only a matter of time.

We have consulted with a range of experts to produce a comprehensive set of policies that we believe will be effective in enabling the United States to prevent what Graham Allison of Harvard University has termed "the ultimate preventable catastrophe."

Today, my colleague, Mr. SHAYS and I, are introducing the "Omnibus Nonproliferation and Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Act of 2005" which lays out a comprehensive plan to overhaul our nonproliferation program.

As with America's intelligence programs, nonproliferation and disarmament programs are spread across the United States government. Thus, the centerpiece of our proposal, is the creation of an Office of Nonproliferation Programs within the Executive Office of the President to coordinate and oversee America's efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons and to manage the effort to secure existing nuclear material in the former Soviet Union and other places.

We need to modernize the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, created by Senator